

NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

NEWS RELEASE

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NEBRASKA DECA ANNOUNCES INTERNATIONAL WINNERS; LINCOLN EAST SENIOR CONKEL ELECTED INTERNATIONAL DECA PRESIDENT

More than 200 Nebraska students competed with nearly 16,000 other students at the 2010 DECA International Career Development Conference in Louisville, Kentucky April 24-27.

Nebraska students who won first, second or third place honors at the state conference qualified to attend. Overall, Nebraska had eight preliminary finalists, 14 top ten finishers and four international winners. Students competed in the areas of marketing, management, finance, hospitality and entrepreneurship.

Kurtis Conkel, a senior at Lincoln East High School, was elected International DECA president at the conference. Conkel is the first Nebraska student elected to this position in more than 30 years. Conkel served as Nebraska's 2009-2010 Vice President of Alumni/Collegiate DECA. During the conference, Conkel campaigned for three days, met with nearly 40 state/provincial delegations, competing with four other candidates from across the country.

International Winners:

Community Service Project

First Place: Rebecca Monnier, Aiden Shrum and Kristen Williamson, Bellevue West High School

Principles of Finance

Third Place: Ke Arkfeld, Westside High School

Top Ten Finalists:

Business Services Operations Research Event

Stephanie Goodman and Corinne Orth, Millard South High School

Buying and Merchandising Operations Research Event

Ivette Ortiz and Cole Plummer, Scottsbluff High School

Food Marketing Series

Nealesh Padhye, Lincoln Southwest High School

Hospitality and Tourism Operations Research Event

Alex Brown, Dustin Svatos and Jesse Wickwire, Millard South High School

Megan Nielsen, Lindsay Schilling and Ashley Tisinger, Bellevue West High School

Sports and Entertainment Marketing Operations Research Event

John Babic, Mackenzie Hawkins and Paula Kynard, Bellevue West High School

Preliminary Finalists:

Accounting Applications

Taylor Surber, Scottsbluff High School

Apparel and Accessories Marketing

Katherine Leibel, Westside High School

Principles of Business Management and Administration

John Haslam, Scottsbluff High School

Principles of Finance

Ariana Koch, Omaha Central High School

Principles of Hospitality and Tourism

Shelby Piniarski, Millard South High School

Public Relations Project

Brooke Earnest and Kayla Simms, Bellevue West High School

Sports and Entertainment Marketing

Sarah Nelson, Westside High School

International Scholarship Winners:

Marriott International: John Glassman, Omaha North High School

Otis Spunkmeyer: Ellen Muehling, Lincoln East High School